

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 1998

EXTENDED VERSION

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Library Association affirms that libraries are fundamental to a thriving democracy, culture and economy.

The Library Association is therefore committed to enabling its members to achieve and maintain the highest professional standards and encouraging and supporting them in the delivery and promotion of high quality library and information services responsive to the needs of users.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR BOB USHERWOOD BA PhD FIInfSc ALA HonFLA A YEAR TO VALUE

1998 was the year we celebrated the centenary of our Royal Charter. On 8 December it was my privilege to invite HRH the Princess Royal, to present Royal Charter Centenary Medals to members who exemplified our achievements over the past hundred years. The people honoured represented many generations, and their work and commitment demonstrated that the Association is well placed to take the values of the past and project them into the future.

The Centenary year was an opportunity to celebrate the value, and the values, of the library profession. To celebrate the value of librarians to industry, to government, to universities, to schools and to organizations in the public and voluntary sectors. To celebrate the *values* of librarians in terms of the importance we place on accuracy, openness, honesty, and ethics in the communication of information and ideas. These are values that cross the boundaries of place and time.

On a personal level I had a wonderful time. I learnt a great deal, and was encouraged by the energy, enthusiasm and expertise that I found in the individuals, groups and sections that make up our Association. My travels, in this country and abroad, demonstrated that what unites us is greater than that which divides us, and I trust that we will soon be celebrating the birth of a unified organization. One that combines the current strengths and values of The Library Association with those of the Institute of Information Scientists (IIS).

Shortly after becoming President I received a letter marked "Bob Usherwood care of Ross Shimmon". Just before I handed over the Presidency, the news of Ross's move to the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) was made public. Not only the President, but every member of The Library Association owes a great deal to the care of Ross Shimmon. We are served well by the Association's staff and many of the achievements outlined in this report owe a great deal to their efforts.

For the first time in nearly two decades librarians and information workers can look forward with some degree of hope. Although we can make valid criticisms about the differences between rhetoric and reality, there have been positive signs from government. There are now real opportunities for the profession to contribute to the national agenda. For example, social inclusion in the Information Society, is something that our profession is well placed to deliver. 1998 has seen a number of events that provide us with the chance to develop services for the benefit of users, be they members of the public, university staff and students, school children, or workers in the private and voluntary sectors.

100 years ago, at the first meeting of the newly incorporated Library Association, the following resolution was carried by acclamation:

"That the fellows and members of The Library Association gratefully accept the Royal Charter of Incorporation, which Her Majesty the Queen has most graciously conferred upon them, and regard it as at once a gracious recognition of the work accomplished by the Association, and an incentive to still greater efforts in the future for the promotion of its objects."

Today, the language may be different but our sentiments remain the same. Our future efforts will be no less, as we take our values into the next Millennium.

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ROSS SHIMMON FLA

Arguably, the most significant achievement in 1998 was the bringing together of 25 library and information service organizations in a joint declaration in support of the proposals contained in *New Library: the People's Network*. We sent the declaration to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. It led to a further joint declaration from a similar range of LIS organizations on the role of library and information services in support of lifelong learning. Who knows – it may lead to a more permanent grouping of organizations representing our broad range of interests?

The Library Association continues to make the point that libraries – of all kinds – can play a key and creative role in delivering the current government's stated objectives; notably those in the areas of education, literacy, developing ICT skills, social inclusion, lifelong learning and a buoyant economy. There are clear signs that this is at last being recognised at the highest levels. The government's response to *New Library: the People's Network* referred to the potential contribution of libraries in documents on the National Grid for Learning and lifelong learning, plus the proposals in the *Comprehensive Spending Review* are all evidence to support this view.

We continue to work hard on our contacts with politicians and civil servants. We were especially pleased that the Prime Minister provided us with a quotation for our stand at the IFLA conference:

"The library is a platform for self-development, a gateway to knowledge and a catalyst for the imagination."

However, we share the concern that, in many parts of the country, there is a yawning gap between that vision and the reality. Public library closures and cutbacks, schools balancing budgets by making their librarians redundant, and universities selling off special collections are just some examples. We raise these issues with politicians and officials at every opportunity. Proposals in the European Union to tighten copyright law also threatens access to information, ideas and works of imagination under the pretext of tackling piracy in the electronic age. Together with our colleagues in the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) we continue to monitor the situation and lobby influencers.

Throughout 1998 we contributed, with the IIS, to the work of the Unification Planning Group, culminating in the consultation paper *Our Professional Future*. I believe that a new unified organization for the library and information profession in the UK would put into practice the saying 'unity is strength'. I hope you do too.

This is the last time I shall be introducing the Association's Annual Report. By the time it is published I shall have taken up my duties as Secretary General of IFLA. I believe that, together, we have made great strides in recent years in forging an Association worthy of a vital profession. It has been a privilege to have been part of that.

INFORMATION SERVICES & PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

The Library Association is widely recognised as the most authoritative voice on library and information matters. Providing swift, accurate information and answering questions are core – and steadily increasing – activities. The enormous range of enquiries come from members and other information professionals around the world, but also from the media, government, local authorities, employers, researchers, students and educationalists. Our skilled Information Services staff - including four Chartered Librarians - are on hand to respond. E-mail, now the most widely used medium for enquiries, enables a response usually within one day.

Specialist or in-depth questions are referred to Association staff who have particular expertise, for example, the Professional Advisers (representing each sector of the library community), the International Co-ordinator and staff in the Professional Qualifications and Membership Departments. The rapidly growing number of calls from journalists and other commentators requires a seamless link between the Association's information professionals and Marketing and PR staff.

Much of The Library Association's information provision is pro-active. We produce an extensive range of free leaflets which are widely distributed. Our careers literature is made available through Careers Advice Services and universities, for example, as well as at the annual London Graduate Recruitment Fair.

Web site

The Library Association was one of the first professional bodies to set up a Web site. Our members, being information professionals, were early adopters of the Internet and many, particularly in the higher education and corporate sectors, are experienced and demanding Web users. During 1998, the Association's Web site (www.la-hq.org.uk) was redesigned to visually reflect the organization and make it easier to navigate; ultimately making all the information we publish available to remote members via the Web. Our site, therefore, is very large and heavily text based. Its diverse user group ranges from journalists wishing to snap up press releases the instant they are issued, to specialists making a careful study of a complex professional issue such as copyright. The Association's Regional Branches and Special Interest Groups are also encouraged to disseminate information via the site. It has the potential to be an important marketing tool for the Association and feedback on the new design has been very positive.

Members' Information Centre

Early in 1998, The Library Association opened a brand new service - the Members' Information Centre. In a bright, comfortable room within the Association's Ridgmount Street offices, members can now work; read the latest professional journals; read their own e-mails and have free access to the Internet and to LISA on CD-ROM - all with staff on hand to assist. The Centre holds current and back issues of all the major library and information journals, copies of government and other important reports along with The Library Association's own responses, statistical information, standards, and a core reference collection. Members working towards their Associateship will find copies of the complete Charter reading list. Use of the Centre has grown steadily and members have responded enthusiastically.

RESPONSES TO GOVERNMENT & OTHER INFLUENTIAL BODIES

The Library Association was active in bringing together the wider LIS community to consider the potentially exciting agenda for library and information services represented by such developments as the National Grid for Learning, *New Library: the People's Network* and other lifelong learning initiatives. In February, a declaration was issued with 25 signatories representing a range of LIS key players. In July, the Declaration Group, as it is now known, submitted a joint response to the government's Green Paper on *The Learning Age*.

The Library Association responded to numerous government consultation documents relating to *New Library: the People's Network*. An independent summary of this Library and Information Commission (LIC) report was produced and inserted in the February *Record*. A *Speaker's Presentation Pack* was developed and distributed to all UK public library authorities and many other organizations. The Library Association is convinced that *the People's Network* can become "the defining moment" in public library history that Chris Smith has predicted.

The Library Association consulted widely on the proposals within the government's *Comprehensive Spending Review*, published in July, before responding to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The *Review* outlines public expenditure up to the next general election and will have a major impact on library and information services. One *Review* outcome is that the LIC itself will receive funding to fulfil a number of the functions they proposed for a Public Library Networking Agency.

The Association worked closely with the LIC to address opportunities within the government's regional agenda. Joint nominations of people to serve on Boards of the new Regional Development Agencies in England were ultimately unsuccessful, yet signified the sector's interest and raised the issue's profile within the LIS community.

The Association consulted on, and responded to, the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) *School Standards and Framework Bill*; particularly Clause 44/45 which concerns 100% delegation of Local Education Authority (LEA) funds, and the implication for Schools Library Services. An amendment to the Bill was placed via Baroness David in the House of Lords and this suggestion for local balloting of schools as a means to safeguard funding for Schools Library Services was incorporated in the consultation paper *Fair Funding: Improving Delegation to Schools*. The Library Association met at 10 Downing Street with Andrew Adonis in the Policy Unit. Official responses, (English and Welsh), to the consultation paper were made to the DfEE. Keeping politicians aware of the potential impact of full delegation on Schools Library Services, the Association reported to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on libraries and sent letters to interested MPs. The Library Association also made a full response to a House of Commons Sub-Committee, identifying how Ofsted could be a more effective tool for improving standards in school libraries and schools library services.

The Library Association response to *Meeting the Childcare Challenge*, a DfEE consultation paper, highlighted public libraries as major players in early education. Responses to the following DfEE consultation papers were also produced; *Extending Opportunities: a National Framework for Study Support*; *Numeracy Matters*; *Induction for New Teachers* and *Code of Practice on LEA-School Relations*.

The Association took the lead on a response to the Office of Science and Technology Foresight Programme Phase Three, drawing on both cross-sectoral input and colleagues external to the profession.

Responses were made to government and European consultation documents on copyright, including the Green Paper on *Crown Copyright* and the *Proposal for a Directive on Copyright and Related Rights in the Information Society: COM (97) 628*.

Responses were also made to the Planning Group for Accreditation and Teaching in HE consultation paper (March); the Initial Consultation Paper of the Institute for Learning and Teaching Planning Group (May) and the Independent Review of HE Pay and Conditions call for evidence (June).

In collaboration with the IIS, the Association issued a response to the British Academy Humanities Research Board consultation paper: *Postgraduate Awards in Library and Information Science; Art and Design; and Certain Other Vocational Subjects* and a response to the Quality Assurance Agency consultation paper: *Developing the Quality Assurance and Standards Framework for UK Higher Education*.

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING & LIAISON

Library Association staff continue to visit libraries and other venues to increase members' and others' understanding of the role of the Association; and our understanding of current issues as they affect practitioners. Exhibiting at the Library and Information Show in June and Online in December enabled us to mix with current and potential members, as well as investigate some of the latest developments in the information community.

The IIS approached The Library Association to explore the possibility of unification. A joint consultative document *Our Professional Future - A Proposal for a New Organization for the Library and Information Profession* was distributed to all members.

The Professional Advisers for Special Libraries attended committee meetings and events of the Association's Groups, Branches, Organizations in Liaison (OILs) and other external bodies, including Library and Information Co-operation Council (LINC) Health Panel, Theatre Information Group (TIG), Sports and Recreation Interest Group (SPRIG), UKSG (Serials Group), Construction Industry Information Group, (recently granted OIL status), Women In Management and City Information Group. The Association supported the proposed Careers Information Group, and Tourism Librarians Group, both at the stage of confirming names.

The Association's Special Libraries Committee is compiling a list of groups that support those working in special libraries. A cross-sectoral Competencies Working Party is developing a Competencies Toolkit. A Knowledge Practitioner Network was established to provide a forum and study group for those applying knowledge management in their work. A Benchmarking for Corporate Information Services Network was also established.

The Professional Adviser for Youth and School Libraries continues to work closely with regional and national groups of the Association's Youth Libraries Group (YLG) and School Libraries Group (SLG), as well as the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL) and the School Library Association (SLA); responding to concerns, disseminating information from government and other sources, and assisting with national developments. Links were reinforced with BBC Education, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), The Prince's Trust, Young Book Trust, the Publishers Association, Children's Book Circle, the Family Learning Campaign, Children's PLUS and Well Worth Reading. Raising the profile of youth and school libraries to outside agencies included presentations to ASDA and Barclays, media briefings and radio interviews, articles in *Parliamentary Monitor* and Education Extra briefing sheets.

The Professional Adviser for Academic Libraries developed links with the Association of University Teachers (AUT) Library Staff Committee, the Campaign for Learning, the Council for Learning Resources in Colleges (CoLRiC), the FE Resources for Learning (FERL) Steering Group, the Flexible Learning Forum, the HE Colleges Learning Resources Group, and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) Library Section. As Northern Ireland colleges were incorporated this year (i.e. set up as legal entities), a visit there in October dealt with the uncertainty about what this will mean for college LIS. With DfEE and the British Association of Open Learning (BAOL), work began on developing a Quality Mark scheme for public access Open Learning Centres. Arguments from the Association's *Response to the Learning Age Green Paper* were used within DfEE to make the case for funding the scheme.

The Academic and Research Libraries Committee networked with external agencies such as the British Library Research and Innovation Centre (BLRIC) and the Consortium of University and Research Libraries (CURL). The Adult Learners and Libraries Sub-Committee maintained similar strong links, with representatives from BAOL, BBC, British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA), DfEE and National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) attending its meetings.

Demand for courses and meetings concerning Chartership and continuing professional development (CPD) remained high, with Professional Qualifications Department staff active in 32 professional meetings, as course/workshop leaders or contributors.

Accreditation visits were made to Napier University of Edinburgh, Thames Valley University, University of Central England in Birmingham, University of North London, University of Northumbria at Newcastle and the University of Wales Aberystwyth. 59 courses were in accreditation by December 1998. The Library Association and the IIS, (independent of the unification discussions), drew up a new joint accreditation instrument. Discussions on equivalency and reciprocity of professional qualifications took place with the American Library Association (ALA) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA).

Work began to set up a network of mentors for Chartership candidates, in collaboration with The Library Association's Personnel, Training and Education Group (PTEG) and Career Development Group (CDG).

The Association's professionalism was commended by the Sir Jules Thorn Trust when advising on the allocation of £500,000 for the development of innovative public library services. Awards were made to Manchester, Cambridgeshire, Enfield and Bury.

SURVEYS & RESEARCH

Following the publication of the Audit Commission report *Due for Renewal*, The Library Association and National Acquisitions Group (NAG) jointly sponsored research by Capital Planning Information (CPI) into developing guidelines for stock management (*Public Library Stock Management*, NAG, 1998, ISBN: 1 870 269 21 7). A number of research dissemination seminars have been held.

The Library Association's *Survey of Library and Learning Resources in Further Education* was completed this year. A continuation of the previous biennial *College Library Survey*, it will provide an unique source of statistical data on the sector.

In June, The Library Association produced a *Brief Survey of Homework Initiatives* to identify the growing scale of library service involvement in study support.

The Library Association is part of the group responsible for developing and monitoring the Children's PLUS Surveys carried out in individual library authorities.

The Association has actively taken forward recommendations in the Library and Arts Working Party report, *Cultural Development and Publicly Funded Library Services*. We contributed £10,000 to a research project to map out arts provision within public library services. Partners are being sought to co-sponsor this research. In addition, the Association financed and contributed to the feasibility study for a national literature and reader development project based on public libraries. This resulted in the Society of Chief Librarians' successful Lottery bid, *Branching Out*, and an award of £300,000. The Library Association also contributed £2800 for the development of an *Advocacy Pack*, a Reading Partnership project.

A research project investigated the role of the Chartership process in CPD. The Association participated in compiling *Turning Points*, a learning support toolkit for the CPD of library and information graduates. This is currently being piloted amongst candidates for the register of Chartered members.

GUIDELINES

The Association's Special Libraries Committee began work on overhauling the current special librarian salary guides.

The Library Association Guidelines for Secondary School Libraries, (Library Association Publishing, 1998, ISBN: 1 85604 278 2), revised and updated those published in 1992, (*Learning Resources in Schools*) and placed secondary school libraries in the context of current educational imperatives and thinking. A working group was established to produce guidelines for primary school libraries.

As a partner in LaunchPad, the Association produced the guidance notes *Building Strategic Partnerships*. Aiming to enhance service provision for children, young people and families, this document features tips for advocacy at local level and advice on creating sustainable partnerships with external organizations.

The Library Association Guidelines on Library Provision for Franchised Courses were updated this year.

The Equal Opportunities Sub-Committee is revising the *Equal Opportunities Pack* and new editions of the *Guidelines on Sexual Orientation and Sexual Harassment* are now available. The Sub-Committee also approved the *Guidelines on Good Practice* developed by Patrick Roach and Marlene Morrison of the University of Warwick as a result of their research project *Public Libraries, Ethnic Diversity and Citizenship*. A particular concern is how equal opportunity considerations are taken into account in the development of the new electronic networks; a working party is looking into this.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

A new international policy document has been produced to bring greater coherence and a higher level of strategic planning to this area.

Two new projects are being supported; a partnership between the Albert Cook Memorial Medical Library in Uganda and South Thames Library and Information Service, and a partnership between the Malawi Library Service and various UK public libraries.

The programme with the Lithuanian Library Association flourishes, with a professional delegation, (including their president), visiting this summer. The Kate Pierce Fund has helped members attend overseas events. A reference guide *Opportunities in Europe*, highlighting funding possibilities in the LIS sector, has been produced and is available to all members.

November saw the launch of The European Fair Practices in Copyright Campaign (EFPICC).

The Association participated in the Campaign by attending lobbying meetings, sending letters and copies of the briefing pack to MEPs and through our membership of EBLIDA. Increasingly active in EBLIDA, the Association will host their next annual council meeting. The Library Association continues to actively support full UK involvement in UNESCO and has been involved in a consultation exercise on the future direction of the organization.

INPUT TO CONFERENCES

There was a strong UK presence at the IFLA conference this year in Amsterdam. 15 members received direct Library Association support to facilitate their attendance. The Association exhibited at the conference as part of a 'British Pavilion' with the British Council, British Library and LIC; providing a co-ordinated vision of the best in British library and information work.

A successful third *Black Contribution to British Librarianship Conference* took place at The Library Association's Ridgmount Street offices on 30 November, with Trevor Phillips as keynote speaker.

The Association's Professional Advisers for Special Libraries continue to attend appropriate conferences and seminars, present papers, lead roundtable discussions and help plan programmes. For example Knowledge Management '98 conference and vendor seminar; Health Libraries Group conference and clinical knowledge seminar; Career Development Group conference; UK Serials Group conference; and British and Irish Law Librarians Group conference. In addition, the Advisers were heavily involved in planning the special librarians conference Vision '98 in Buxton on 5-6 November.

The Professional Adviser for Academic Libraries was co-organizer of the national conference *FE: National Policies and their Implications for Learning Resources*. The conference ran twice - in March at Manchester University and June in London - with over 60 delegates each time. The Professional Adviser also chaired the session given by Professor Bob Fryer at the NATHFE Library Section conference in November. *Widening Participation and the University for Industry: the Role of Libraries*, organized by The Library Association, NIACE and the University of Sunderland, attracted over 120 delegates to Sunderland on 9 December.

The Professional Adviser Youth and School Libraries gave formal presentations at the national YLG and ASCEL conferences and many local one-day schools and professional seminars. Subjects included 'Teenagers and Reading', 'The Professional Development of School Librarians' and 'Homework Clubs'.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S MEDALS AND AWARDS

The Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

Sponsored by Royal Mail and awarded in July

Carnegie Winner: Tim Bowler, *Riverboy*, Oxford University Press

Highly Commended: Henrietta Branford, *Fire, Bed and Bone*, Walker Books

Commended: J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Bloomsbury

Greenaway Winner: P.J. Lynch, *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*, Walker Books

Highly Commended: Charlotte Voake, *Ginger*, Walker Books

Highly Commended: Bob Graham, *Queenie the Bantam*, Walker Books

The Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Shadowing Scheme

127 schools formally registered in the 1998 scheme, using the Award shortlist announced in May as the basis for a range of classroom and extra-curricular discussion and activity. Schools Library Services work with more than one school, bringing the number of groups involved to nearer 200; representing up to 7000 children. 56 groups contributed reviews and their choice of winners to a page on the Association's Web site, plus some children were invited to attend the prestigious Award ceremony at the British Library Conference Centre. It was credit to the scheme's success in 1997 that it secured Arts Council of England funding for the second year running; an unusual, but very pleasing result!

The Community Initiative Award

Sponsored by the Library and Information Show and announced in December

Winner: Pontefract Library Readers Group

The other shortlisted projects were Moretonhampstead Computer Centre and Roll on Reading (London Borough of Enfield).

The Reference Awards

Sponsored by Whitaker and awarded in June

McColvin Medal for an outstanding work of reference

Mark Herber, *Ancestral Trails*, Sutton Publishing Ltd in association with the Society of Genealogists

Wheatley Medal for an outstanding index

Jan Ross, the index to *Rheumatology*, Mosby International

Besterman Medal for an outstanding bibliography or guide to the literature

Cherry Lavell, *Handbook for British and Irish Archaeology*, Edinburgh University Press

Walford Award for a sustained contribution to bibliography

Dr. Barry Bloomfield MA FLA HonFLA

The Independent Library Learner Award

Sponsored by Ivy Learning Software and awarded in May

Winner: David Flowerday, nominated by Antrim Library

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS IN 1998:

BAILER

BBC Education

The British Library

Fretwell-Downing Informatics Ltd

Ivy Learning Software

Library and Information Show

The Pearson Charitable Trust

Peters Library Service

Royal Mail

The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust

Whitaker

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY

The Library Association's Royal Charter Centenary

A centenary logo was designed and incorporated into Library Association publicity during the year, including a banner in the window of the Association's Ridgmount Street offices. A Centenary flourish was added to the seal on certificates for Associateship and Fellowship, plus the Reference and Carnegie Greenaway Awards. A new Royal Charter leaflet, a special edition of the Library Association Yearbook and a Centenary mug were also produced.

At a Royal Charter Centenary reception at the British Library on 8 December, HRH The Princess Royal presented medals to 100 members; honoured as representatives of those countless numbers who have served the profession well since 1898. Secretary of State, Chris Smith, was also present. Nomination forms to identify medal recipients were distributed via *Record*; the Association's Regional Branches, Special Interest Groups and Organizations in Liaison; its Web site and through London and South Eastern Library Region (LASER).

National Year of Reading

The Library Association was represented on the DfEE Advisory Group for the National Year of Reading. We set up a network of over 200 co-ordinators to facilitate information exchange about Year of Reading activity in libraries.

The Library Association is a partner in LaunchPad, (with ASCEL and the Society of Chief Librarians - SCL); established to communicate positive messages about library services to children through marketing and advocacy. Development began on a project *Reaching Parents in the Community*, (which secured £25,000 of National Year of Reading funding), and a national summer reading challenge - *The Reading Safari: funfactfunkyfiction* (with Books For Students and major children's publishers).

The Association worked with the BBC on their Books for Babies campaign, aimed at parents. Three promotional shorts in October encouraged parents to read with their babies, with a telephone hot-line linking parents with participating local libraries for advice, information and activities for under five's.

As a result of considerable anxiety expressed by members of the profession working in school libraries, 1998 saw on-going correspondence with David Campbell, Managing Director of the Everyman Library concerning the gift of 250 classics to every UK school. The Library Association gave many radio interviews on the subject; an opportunity to talk about how libraries encourage young people to read widely, the vital role of school libraries in supporting the curriculum and the National Year of Reading.

Future Campaigns

Preparations got underway for future campaigns including Workplace Libraries '99, a focus year to increase awareness of the value of information to successful and thriving organizations, and the role librarians play in this. The special libraries sector is really a vast arena of sectors, such as industry, health, voluntary, government and commerce. Current smaller scale work is looking closer at engineering and life sciences.

Plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Public Libraries Act in 2000 progressed well. A working party was established and all Library Association members were invited to submit ideas for the year.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ENTERPRISES

INFOmatch

The Library Association recruitment agency, INFOmatch had another very successful year, financially and in terms of service to the LIS profession; a record number of permanent and temporary vacancies were filled, with profits reflecting this increased business.

The impact of marketing is evident in repeat business and new contacts made in all sectors, across the country. A high-profile client breakfast meeting - a new venture - proved productive and enjoyable for all. University visits are now a well established part of the curriculum, enabling us to build a better picture of new graduates, their skills and aspirations.

To accommodate the extra business there are now four INFOmatch consultants plus administrative support. The Web page attracts many enquiries, and there are plans to exploit this further.

The Library Association Record

A successful books issue was published in March, to coincide with the London International Book Fair. The *Record* will be introducing regular spots for authors and others to talk about books, both in response to favourable comments from readers and to strengthen relationships with publishers. The October themed issue focused on lifelong learning.

To celebrate the *Record's* centenary, a popular column looked back over the major issues of each decade. New columns highlighted the National Year of Reading and collaboration between The Library Association, libraries and BBC Education (written by the newly appointed Learning Libraries Co-ordinator, Fiona O'Brien).

Development of the *Record's* Web site continued, making it more attractive and lively.

Record and the Advertising Department together produced, for the first time, the handbook accompanying the Library and Information Show, and the Show preview - a supplement to the May *Record*.

Advertising

With on-going cut-backs in the public sector, it was predictable that library suppliers would reduce their 1998 advertising budgets. A number of initiatives were therefore implemented to maintain advertising revenue. Increased face-to-face presentations to library suppliers have proved successful and the *Buyers Guide* directory, at the back of the *Record*, continues as a valuable source of revenue.

Library and Information Appointments has achieved considerable success. This year saw the change of name from *Vacancies Supplement*. The placing in full of all recruitment advertisements on LA JobNet created greater awareness of *Appointments* in the UK and overseas and also beyond our membership; attracting more advertisements. New monthly editorials on career and management issues were well received and attracted more senior job advertisements.

Library Association Publishing

In spite of tricky market conditions with a strong pound and an increasingly underfunded UK institutional sector, 1998 proved to be a steady year for LAP; consolidating its place as a leading commercial publisher in the field.

The first half of the year saw some timely publications including *Inside the British Library* - to coincide with the official opening - and a Royal Charter Centenary edition of *The Library Association Yearbook*. A unique new reference work *A Guide to World Language Dictionaries* provided a fascinating and evaluative guide to 276 of the world's written languages.

In Autumn and Winter we published a flurry of technology related titles, for which there is increasing demand. The only UK Internet guide intended to help students - of any discipline - with their studies, *The Student's Guide to the Internet* went into its second edition; selling well.

The Advanced Internet Searcher's Handbook also has broad appeal; intended for anyone but a total beginner. "What an excellent text this is...contains a great deal of useful information, facts and tips", (*Internet Resources Newsletter*). December saw the publication of *The Library and Information Professional's guide to the World Wide Web*. Our cataloguing portfolio was increased by the launch of the electronic version of the new 1998 revision of AACR2; enhanced functionality greatly attracting bibliographic services departments. With communication skills identified as a core competence for information professionals of the future, suggestions for staff development in *Communicating Professionally* are also proving popular.

Professional Development and Conferences

During the year, 1643 participants attended 97 courses. More and more employers recognise that these courses represent the most appropriate learning opportunities not only for LIS staff, but also personnel, IT, records management and administrative support. During 1998, a rise in attendees from the special libraries sector - 33% compared to 27% in 1997 - made attendance higher than from public libraries (23%). On-site events were held in organizations ranging from a national library to a multinational company. The Framework for CPD is now available on disk, free to all personal members on request.

Three half-day seminars at the London International Bookfair in March attracted 200 academic LIS professionals; prompting an invitation to run similar events in 1999. Four successful Executive Briefings, encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration, focused on wider access after Dearing, Lottery funding, Intranets and lifelong learning & libraries.

The 1998 conference programme included the Public Libraries Group biennial study school, (University of East Anglia, 100 delegates); Health Libraries Group biennial meeting and exhibition, (University of Lancaster, 250 delegates) and Public Library Authorities annual conference (Harrogate, 300 delegates). In November we held Vision '98, a meeting and exhibition for the special library sector in Buxton attended by 60 delegates. The third annual one-day conference especially for African, Asian and Caribbean library staff attracted over 100 members. Planning got under way for: UmbrelLA Five in Manchester - The Library Association Special Interest Groups' biennial showcase event, 1-3 July 1999; the International Congress of Medical Librarianship, July 2000; and the IFLA meeting in Glasgow, August 2002.

MEMBERSHIP

Overall membership numbers dropped by 2.1% in 1998. This reduction is not entirely unexpected; a natural levelling-off given the healthy and steady increase prior to 1997. Nonetheless, Membership and Marketing departments are working proactively to increase membership recruitment and retention.

Applications for Library Association Associateship were up on 1997, with increased use of the proforma and portfolio methods of submission. 20 new Fellows were elected to the Register, the same as in 1997. Applications came from all parts of the world. Presentation ceremonies were held at IFLA in Amsterdam and at the British High Commission in Australia in addition to the traditional event on Members' Day.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP 1998				
UK PERSONAL		OVERSEAS PERSONAL		INSTITUTIONAL
Associate	14,166	Associate	574	Institutional - UK 439
Fellow	991	Fellow	121	Institutional - Overseas 198
Ordinary (incl. 2077 students)	7417	Ordinary	488	<i>Total Institutional</i> 637
Affiliated	693	<i>Total Overseas Personal</i>	<i>1183</i>	
Supporting	56			Corporate Partners 17
<i>Total UK Personal</i>	<i>23,323</i>			
Total Personal	24,506			
Total Membership	25,160			

REGIONAL BRANCHES & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Library Association's effectiveness depends significantly on the voluntary effort of the many active members in 12 Regional Branches, (many of which also have sub-branches), 22 Special Interest Groups, (and their regional or specialist sub-groups), the Affiliated Members' National Committee and the Retired Members' Guild.

Branch and Group contributions are key to the development of Association policy, responses to government and other official documents. Branches and Groups also encourage professional development, dissemination of best practice, networking and social opportunities by organizing such things as seminars, conferences and training; library visit programmes - including overseas; bursaries and prizes; journals, newsletters and other publications; and Web pages.

BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

1998 was a difficult year for the Branch Committee; the Vice-Chair/Editor and Honorary Secretary unexpectedly resigned and there were difficulties recruiting and retaining new Committee members. However, the Branch continued to offer a varied programme of visits, events and training. The Annual General Meeting speakers addressed the issue of lifelong learning and library visits this year bore out that theme; Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, the British Library, and Oxford University's Radcliffe Science Library. On the social side, a quiz supper and river-side walk were held.

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Branch Electronic Library (BBOBEL) was developed this year. The Branch newsletter, (*BBOB News*), under new editorship, continues to be a successful publication. The Committee provided a considered response to the consultative document *Our Professional Future*, raising issues needing further clarification. The Thelma Barrett Bursary was granted to Kathy Lemaire to attend the International Association of School Librarians annual conference in Israel.

EASTERN BRANCH

The East Anglian Librarians Consultative Committee (EALCC) continues to represent the interests of library and information staff in East Anglia through training, information and a regional forum. EALCC consists of The Library Association's Eastern Branch, the Career Development Group (CDG) Eastern Division, representatives from other local Library Association Groups, and academic, special and public libraries.

EALCC ran courses with CDG, Anglian Libraries Information Exchange Scheme (ANGLES) and East Midlands Regional Library System (EMRLS) on libraries under a new government, digital imaging in information services, and library co-operation and networking. Information Services Group and Youth Libraries Group also held successful courses, including one on lifelong learning.

The quarterly *Easterner* newsletter, promoting local activities and sharing best practice, published features on ICT development, Best Value, Continuing Professional Development, and library buildings.

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting was held jointly with the East Midlands Career Development Group at the British Geological Survey in Nottinghamshire, and was addressed by Bob Usherwood.

The Branch supported the inaugural meeting of a Midlands and Anglia Local Studies Group, held in Nottingham. The Group will be represented on Branch Council.

Council met four times during the year and discussed the *Comprehensive Spending Review*, the proposed unification of the IIS and The Library Association, and the activities of local groups and organizations. Two reports were presented on the Development Bid project, You are not Alone, which aims to set up a network to support solo librarians.

LONDON & HOME COUNTIES BRANCH

1998 was a special year for the Branch which celebrated its 75th Anniversary in April, with a reception attended by 100 members.

The Branch played a full role as agent for The Library Association's international relations work with France and Germany. Working placements were arranged for British librarians in Dresden, Leipzig, Duisberg and Chalon. Assistance was given to the Retired Members' Guild Paris library tour, and visits and study tours were arranged in the UK for librarians from Rome, Scandinavia and Tokyo. A meeting was convened to merge the French, German, English and Scottish work programmes.

The Branch organized three one-day courses: two Executive Briefings for senior managers addressed public libraries and social exclusion, and national developments in librarianship, while the third was of general interest - covering Continuing Professional Development.

Continuing the Branch assistance for unemployed librarians; courses were organized in London, Essex and Surrey, as well as a joint course with the South West Branch in Southampton. To complement this, a joint second level course for those returning to work has been developed entitled Many Happy Returns. Very appropriate for a 75th birthday year.

NORTHERN BRANCH

The Northern Branch had another active and enjoyable year with increased participation of members around the region. A recruitment initiative secured new committee members from the local public library authorities, ensuring the committee is now well balanced in representing different sectors of the profession. Branch finances remained healthy, although meeting costs are expected to rise next year and the Branch newsletter, *Northern Librarian*, will need to be fully subsidised.

The events programme was timely and varied, but the real success has been the progressive increase in meeting attendance. A one-day study conference on lifelong learning, featuring key speakers Bob Fryer and Ross Shimmon, attracted 35 paying delegates. The following half-day meeting in preparation for the National Year of Reading attracted around 50 delegates. 80 members enjoyed an excellent opportunity to find out about local professional activities at the regional Members' Day, with the key address by Bob Usherwood. Chartership achievements were also recognised.

The Branch was proud that five of its members were awarded Centenary medals.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

The main event in the Branch marketing programme was a successful conference, *The Informed Citizen: Towards an Inclusive Society*, for which the Branch offered a bursary. Our part-time Executive Officer Elga Logue was appointed and three issues of the journal *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library* were published, representing a wide cross-section of library activity in Northern Ireland.

Branch members welcomed Bob Usherwood and Ross Shimmon on a two-day visit in October. A varied itinerary concluded with an event in the Linen Hall Library Belfast, featuring the President's presentation - *Much More than Numbers: a Social Audit of Public Libraries and Information Services*. The Branch also hosted a drinks reception for a group of visiting American librarians. The Chair warmly welcomed them as part of the British Council's Northern Ireland cultural programme with America, and actively participated in the librarians' study tour.

The Branch contributed to the National Year of Reading, with a half-day conference entitled *The Northern Ireland Dimension*. The Branch was also represented on NYR groups for Public Libraries & the Arts and School Libraries. The Branch maintained contact with the Department of Information Management, Queen's University Belfast, regarding Library Association accreditation of a revised curriculum for the Diploma in Information Management. The Branch co-ordinated nominations for The Library Association Centenary Medals, and five Northern Ireland members were awarded medals.

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH

Responses were submitted to the *Learning Age Green Paper* and to the *Comprehensive Spending Review*, contributing to debate at national level. Professional events on topics such as lifelong learning, copyright, privacy and anonymity, and our professional identity were attended by several hundred members. Individual members were financially supported to attend meetings and local sections of national Groups, and the Branch continues to fund a Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Librarian, Melanie Weeks.

As well as encouraging student representation on Branch Council, the Branch participated in Library Association student roadshows in Liverpool and Manchester, and promoted the profession at a careers fair.

The Branch recognised members achieving Fellowship of The Library Association by the award of the Charles Nowell prize.

Four issues of *North West News* were produced this year and an archives policy was approved, to ensure the preservation of the Branch's existing and future records.

SCOTTISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) School Library Standards Working Party completed the Standards Report and COSLA are considering the final report. The Association supported the development of performance indicators for school library services, which the Audit Unit and Scottish Consultative Committee on the Curriculum have agreed to publish.

Scotland was represented on each of the *New Library: the People's Network* working parties looking at training, network development and the creation of content. The Association was also involved in the development of the Scottish University for Industry, the National Grid for Learning and the government's initiatives on lifelong learning.

SLAINTE, the Association's Web site, has new gateway areas for Scottish Authors, Scottish European Relay Network information, community information and reference resources. Colleges of Further Education are working on identifying and kitemarking sites to support Higher Still Business courses.

The Association celebrated its 90th anniversary with a Scottish Arts Council Lottery award of £382,000 to promote contemporary Scottish writing in secondary schools.

COSLA, the Association and national cultural agencies produced an advocacy document for the Scottish Parliament, detailing the case for a cultural strategy and the establishment of a Ministry for Culture.

SOUTH WESTERN BRANCH

The Branch ran three courses in 1998, all of which were well attended and cost participants £25 or less. Bishop & Barnicoat continued their valuable support, by sponsoring and producing publicity for Branch events. The Branch also contributed financially to three courses run by Library Association Groups.

A directory of special librarians in the South West, sponsored by the Branch and produced by Committee member Sarah Dobson, was published this year.

The first Harry Galloway Prize was awarded to Sarah Hemings as the best student on the MSc Information and Library Management course at the University of Bristol. She received £100 and a scroll.

A survey of unemployed members in the region resulted in a seminar offering advice and support. A Branch membership survey was also initiated.

WELSH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1998 was a period of change for the Welsh Library Association (WLA) and also heralded a major political change in Wales, with the WLA responding to numerous consultation papers emanating from the Welsh Office prior to the advent of the Welsh Assembly. Glyn Collins, whose work had developed the role of the WLA, retired as Executive Officer this year. The new full-time Executive Officer, Huw Llywelyn Evans, responded to consultation papers on *The Comprehensive Spending Review (Wales)*; lifelong learning (*Learning is for Everyone*); *Welsh Assembly: Recording of Proceedings*; *Education and Training Action Plan for Wales* and the *Draft Assembly Transfer of Function Order*. (Responsibility for the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act and The National Library of Wales funding will transfer to the Welsh Assembly.)

The Association continues to inform and update the skills of its members via the bilingual publications, *Newyddion* and *Y Ddolen*, and by organizing seminars and a conference. Co-operation with the Welsh Development Agency and the Consortium of Welsh Library and Information Services proved successful in staging the *Connecting Wales* seminar.

The directory of grants available in Wales was an important addition to the WLA's Web site this year. (www.llgc.org.uk/wla/)

WEST MIDLAND BRANCH

The Committee completed work on the Branch Mission Statement and revised the Aims and Objectives after consultation with members. Library Association Branch Liaison Officer, Lyndsay Rees-Jones, improved communication between the Committee and Association headquarters. Issues particularly raised by the Committee and Branch members related to providing responses to national and government initiatives, problems of recruiting

members to take part in committee work, and the reluctance of employers to release staff to take part in professional initiatives.

The major developments in Branch work have been the appointment of a Link Officer for Library Association Groups and associated organizations in the region, the appointment of a Publicity Officer, and ascertaining the training, development and communication needs of unemployed members.

The Branch continues to publish its newsletter *Open Access* three times a year and aims to secure funding to enable it to appear quarterly. Members' Day and the Annual General Meeting were held at Birmingham Central Library and attended by Bob Usherwood. Research, literacy and freedom of information were the themes for the day. Committee members attended the Library Association student roadshow at the University of Central England, and a careers fair at Coventry University. 15 Branch members were recipients of Library Association Centenary Medals.

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE BRANCH

Branch membership stands at 1546, a decrease of 67 from 1997. The Branch sponsored a local student's attendance at the CDG Conference. Among the events organized by local Groups and to whom joint funding was offered were; a Guide to Chartering; Grey Literature and Social Sciences Information Gateway 9ISG0; a Poetry Training Day; Homework Clubs; a visit to the *Huddersfield Examiner*, and a joint meeting with the National Union of Students.

Yorkshire Library News was published four times during the year. Considerable work has developed the Branch Web Site, which now includes moving images, an e-mail link, the text of the last four newsletters and an events diary.

Funding was provided in co-operation with eight local authorities to assist with a survey of non-users. This survey took place during National Libraries Week in 1997, but the analysis was undertaken in 1998, and a report published in May.

Marilyn Rogerson became the new Branch Assistant Secretary and Ray Prytherch the new Treasurer.

AFFILIATED MEMBERS NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting was held in Edinburgh and included a successful session on what membership of the Affiliates can do for you. Two members were sponsored to attend the IFLA Conference in Amsterdam and contributed to Round Table meetings.

Affiliated members attended weekend schools around the country and were invited to talk at many meetings. Through The Library Association Branch and Group Development Fund, a portable display stand was purchased and proved invaluable in promoting Affiliate membership at these events.

The National Committee awards the biannual Robinson Medal, for good practise and innovation in library administration. The current recipient, Janet Audain, from the University of Reading is now administrating the award for 1998-1999. Five Affiliated members were awarded a Library Association Centenary Medal.

The lively newsletter *Front Line* links all Affiliated members, providing a networking tool and forum for discussion. Popular themes are career development, and the impact of Information Technology.

Towards the end of 1998, a Web page was launched: www.la-hq.org.uk/amnc.htm

BRANCH AND MOBILE LIBRARY GROUP

This year four committee meetings were held and three excellent editions of *Service Point* were produced. The Annual Weekend School, *Your Library - A Catalyst for Community Life*, was fully booked for the fourth year, and for the first time we had to refuse applicants because of insufficient spaces.

The National Mobilemeet in May was held at Derbyshire County Council Headquarters in Matlock. Attracting over 200 delegates and around 50 mobiles; an added bonus this year was a superb talk by Deric Longden. The Mobile Library National Database is now fully operational and can be accessed via Owen Northwood (Tel: 01775 820193). The Group has also received a number of enquiries arising from our Mobile Library Standards published last year.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The underlying structure and functioning of the Career Development Group, following its name change, is very sound and its focus, both in terms of activities and membership targets, remains essentially unaltered. The campaigning and debating of issues continues as a key element.

The newly titled journal *Impact* included a thought-provoking competition sponsored by the Library and Information Show.

Members and non-members throughout the UK attended the successful national conference at Elstree, looking at the role of the information professional. Unfortunately, the student conference had to be cancelled due to poor numbers, but the Group is considering other ways to help students.

A study tour to Prague in September enhanced the Group's international role. The publications programme continued to produce a good mix of valuable bibliographies.

The Group's 15 divisions around the country continued a high level of local activity through courses, social events and visits; giving the Group its reputation for strong networking.

CATALOGUING AND INDEXING GROUP

The Group was again involved in wide-ranging and significant national and international work, relating to standards and other developments. The long awaited revision of AACR2 was finally published and the first electronic version of AACR2 was available by year end.

The Group organised a full conference in Dublin, in association with The Library Association of Ireland. Other highlights included a programme of courses on DDC UK Table revisions, in conjunction with Library Association Continuing Professional Development, and a successful joint seminar with the UK Office for Library and Information Networking (UKOLN) - On Target and In Time. Sessions covered currency surveys and quality issues arising from the British National Bibliography Machine Readable Catalogue Currency Surveys. Cataloguing and Indexing Group Scotland continue to arrange four or five meetings each year.

The Alan Jeffreys Award was made to Keith Trickey in recognition of his work on behalf of the Group, specifically on Continuing Professional Development. The year saw some delays to the quarterly schedule of *Catalogue and Index* during the transition to new editorship. The Group continues to maintain its own page on The Library Association's Web site.

COLLEGES OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION GROUP

Newcastle-upon-Tyne played host to the national conference in April, at which 111 delegates considered the management of academic libraries in a climate of change. Meetings of the 16 Group Circles also pursued wide-ranging topics. Liaison with Council for Learning Resources in Colleges resulted in two successful joint one-day conferences on FE national policy.

Promotion and recruitment was a major focus this year, with an enhanced publicity leaflet, continuing work on the Group Web pages and attendance at the Library and Information Show. Three editions of *CoFHE Bulletin* were also published.

The National Committee met on four occasions and considerations included the lifelong learning Green Papers; discussions and liaison regarding the frameworks for inspection of FE College libraries and learning resource centres; and contributions for the Association's revised franchising guidelines.

Group membership showed a slight fall in 1998 to 2401. However, the number of Affiliated Members increased slightly to 80.

COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP

The Community Services Group continued to liaise with The Library Association in administering the Community Initiative Award. Immediately prior to the Award presentation, the Group held its annual libraries and communities conference, in conjunction with the Community Development Foundation. This year's subject was Place and Cyberspace, examining the role of the library building as a community resource.

As a follow-up to last year's theme of social inclusion, three key publications were launched in conjunction with the Community Development Foundation and Comedia, and have already gone into reprint. (Kerslake and Kinnel - *The Social Impact of Public Libraries: a Literature Review*, McKrell, Green, and Harris - *Libraries and Community Development: a National Survey*, and Matarasso - *Learning Development: an introduction to the social impact of public libraries*.)

EDUCATION LIBRARIANS GROUP

ELG actively consulted with its membership through a questionnaire issued early in 1998. Although response was limited, positive outcomes included two new committee members and suggestions for future events.

Regional meetings included training days on Your School and the Internet; Training Skills and a seminar on official publications in education. The Annual General Meeting, held at the new British Library, also incorporated a fascinating tour of the building.

Val Rowlands continues to find good copy for *ELG News*. 1998 saw three issues published and print costs reduced. Equally, an e-mail discussion list, moderated by Judy Reading, encourages communication amongst members. On the international front, links were established with colleagues in Poland and Hungary.

Committee changes included the sad resignation of treasurer and acting chair, Lorna Brown, following 10 years of dedicated service. The new committee looks forward to taking up the challenge for 1999.

GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES GROUP

The Annual General Meeting saw an address by Bob Usherwood which led to a wide ranging discussion. A half day seminar considering Freedom of Information included Ross Shimmon and Maurice Frankel as speakers and was attended by 26 people representing a wide range of government departments and agencies. Visits to libraries during the year included The Bank of England and The Office of National Statistics

June 1998 saw the first award for services to government information services and was won jointly by three staff from English Nature. The presentation was made at a party to celebrate 20 years of the Group, which was attended by more than 50 members.

Membership remained at around 1100 and the financial position healthy. Changes to the officers saw David Taylor elected to Honorary Secretary, (following Sue Westcott's excellent job in the post), plus 3 additional committee members.

HEALTH LIBRARIES GROUP

A successful conference, (First Aid for the Frontline: information for primary care), and Annual General Meeting were held in September at University of Lancaster. A motion to extend the term of office of the committee from 2 to 3 years was passed.

The 1998 Bishop and Le Fanu Memorial Lecture was delivered by Bruce Madge, Head of the Healthcare Information Service at the British Library, entitled *The Theatre of Plants: a history of the English Herbal*.

The Group held a number of successful study days throughout the year. The first Cochrane HLG Prize, awarded for the use of clinical evidence in making a significant contribution to patient care, went to Stephanie Meakin, Practice Development Midwife and Barbara Millar, Librarian, both with Portsmouth NHS Trust.

The 1997 Travelling Scholarship was awarded jointly to Jean Shaw to attend the 1998 Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa Conference and Gabby Fennessey to attend the 1998 Medical Library Association Conference.

A key event was the appointment of Dr Judy Palmer as the new editor of *Health Libraries Review* succeeding Shane Godbolt.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARIES GROUP

Five Group members received Library Association Charter Centenary medals. After three years as Chair, Elizabeth Dwiar decided to step down. Other long-standing Committee members are also making way for newcomers eager to join this thriving group.

During the past year, ICLG members have been full of enterprise; Jill Speed with David Blake setting up their own company - Databeuro; Keith Hart, Sheila Pantry, Paul Pedley, Sylvia Webb and Angela Abell writing books and giving seminars on marketing for information professionals, becoming a successful entrepreneur, copyright issues, knowledge management and Intranets respectively; Jonathan Gordon-Till is The Law Librarian book review editor, while Graham Coult now edits *Managing Information*.

With membership topping the 2000 mark and the generosity of members hosting free events, the Group has a healthy bank balance. Highlights of the year included the New Year Party at Clifford Chance; visits to the London Chamber of Commerce and Linklaters; the legal representative in Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology's Knowledge Management Forum; Charles Pownall's demonstration of his award-winning euro-emu Web site; Bob Usherwood's illuminating talk on leadership skills; the forum on solo librarianship and Rupert Eales-White's teambuilding tips at the April Annual General Meeting.

Regional events were strongly encouraged, e.g. visits to the BBC's Natural History Unit in Bristol and Durham Land Registry Office. ICLG Scotland was a welcome revival this year. The Aerospace and Defence Librarians Sub Group flourished with visits to British Aerospace at Filton and Air Traffic Control En Route Centre at Swanwick.

Project Officer, Graham Coult, played a major part in co-ordinating the Special Libraries feature at the Library and Information Show. The overall theme was knowledge creation and lifelong learning, including a keynote lecture on intelligent agents by Laurent Lachal of Ovum. This was an exciting new co-operative venture with Aerospace and Defence Librarians Group, British and Irish Association of Law Libraries, Construction industry Information Group, City Law Librarians Group, Special Libraries Association, Information for Energy Group, The Association for Information Management and Voluntary Sector Information Worker's Forum, involving seminars and workshops with high profile speakers from the BBC and Library and Information Commission. The Group Web site was also on show, through which news of Group activities, including Knowledge Management Day, have reached Germany, Spain, Austria, Australia and beyond.

INFORMATION SERVICES GROUP

National Committee decided that 1998 should be Information Quality Year and that activities and events should reflect this theme. Accordingly, a small working party began to prepare new *Guidelines for Information Services in Public Libraries* with a draft available for discussion at an open meeting in September.

The Group's two special interest groups; the Standing Committee on Business Information (SCOBI) and the Standing Committee on Official Publications (SCOOP) continue to monitor developments in the areas of business information and official publications and frequently lobby effectively on topical issues of concern. SCOBI formulated a rationale for the business library.

A number of local sections held successful one-day events on Information Quality and successful visit programmes took place in Scotland and the South East. Advanced reference work training seminars and other meetings covered a range of topics from Grey literature to lifelong learning

Basic Reference Stock for the Public Library and *Official Publishing in the Nineties* were published.

INTERNATIONAL GROUP

The Group's chief effort in 1998 was the Conference - Disaster and After - held at Bristol University in September with speakers from more than 10 different countries. The conference itself was excellent and a volume of proceedings will be published by Taylor Graham in 1999. However, too few non-speakers registered and there was a large financial loss. The whole process has been thoroughly reviewed by the Committee, who have reached conclusions about future programme planning.

The Group suffered another major setback to a core objective, with the sad death of Michael Wise, editor of *Focus*. Michael will be much missed as a person, and his inspired and tireless editorial work will be very hard to replace.

On a positive note, 15 Group members were awarded Royal Charter Centenary medals and a strong input was made to the new Library Association International Policy.

MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP

In 1997, wheels were set in motion for the merger of the Multimedia Information and Technology Groups of the Library Association. By 1998, these wheels were going at full speed. Propelled by the overwhelming support of both Group's membership, 1998 was largely devoted to the processes of the merger. After much fine tuning, the proposed Rules of the joint Group were unanimously accepted at a Special General Meeting in December. Two Committee sub-groups were formed to tackle event management and the development of the Group Web site.

Previous Group journals were reborn as *MmIT: multimedia information and technology*. To increase coverage, maintain standards, cut production costs and take the journal into the 21st Century, *MmIT* has been made available electronically. A sister publication, *LAMIT news*, provides a hard-copy newsletter.

Both the Chair of the Multimedia Group and the Chair of the IT Group received a Royal Charter Centenary Medal.

LIBRARY HISTORY GROUP

Two issues of the Group journal, *Library History*, appeared in 1998, including papers from the 1997 UmbrelLA conference, *Libraries and Modernity*, and The Universal Library seminar of 1996. In 1998, it became a refereed publication. *The Library History Newsletter*, distributed free to members, appeared in a larger, improved format.

Visits for members included the British Library and Queen's College Library, Oxford. In December, the Group expanded its informative suite of Web pages. The e-mail discussion list, *lis-libhist*, attracted markedly increased usage.

Planning of volumes one and three of *A History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland*, to be published by Cambridge University Press under the aegis of the Library History Group and the Institute of Historical Research, were completed during 1998.

LOCAL STUDIES GROUP

In its twenty first birthday year, the Group continued with a steady membership of 2000 and five branches. This includes one inaugurated in 1998 - Midland and Anglia - formed following a successful day school in Nottingham.

The Dorothy McDulla Award was presented to Martin Hayes, Principal Librarian - Local Studies, West Sussex County Library Service. He also gave a comprehensive overview of Familia at the Annual General Meeting.

The Group maintained international relations with local studies librarians in Eastern Europe, particularly Hungary. Ten Hungarian librarians visited London for a six-day study tour, partially subsidised by the Group, and included their attendance at the Annual General Meeting. This was reciprocated when the Group was represented at the Fifth Conference of the Hungarian Association of Local Studies Librarians in Kiskunhalas. A bid was also submitted to the British-Hungarian Joint Academic Project for a grant to develop this relationship.

The compilation of a bibliography of local studies librarianship continues, as does a revised edition of the guidelines for local studies libraries.

12 members of the Group, including the Chair, were awarded a Royal Charter Centenary Medal.

PERSONNEL TRAINING AND EDUCATION GROUP

The Group organized a number of courses and meetings during the year, with topics such as emotional management, training evaluation, and an evening with Bob Usherwood.

The Directory of Personnel and Training Contacts 1998 was published. Favourably received, it continues to sell steadily.

The Supervisors Liaison Officers Network had a particularly active year, holding showcase events in both London and Manchester plus a further Liaison Officers meeting in London. It has also been active in initiating, along with The Library Association Professional Qualifications Department, a network of volunteers to support candidates Chartering through the Route B option.

Publicity and communications were updated, including the creation of Web pages giving details of activities and a calendar of events.

The *PTEG Journal* continues to include articles of a high academic standard, while remaining an excellent source of current information and news. The Peter New Award also attracts submissions of quality from members of the profession on topics of their choice.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES GROUP

The Public Libraries Group had a year of mixed fortunes. The Weekend School did not attract its usual numbers, despite an excellent programme, a pointer to the fact that venues, (in this case, Norwich), away from the major rail and road networks are not popular. This was counter-balanced by a very successful Public Library Authorities Conference, held in Harrogate, with a gratifying number of delegates from the new unitary authorities.

The Group's exhibition stand in the Library Association Village at the Library and Information Show provided an excellent opportunity to talk to members about relevant issues, and to promote the Group's work. A Web page was also set up to promote activities and merchandise. The Group helped, again, in sponsoring the Public Library Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The *Public Library Journal* continued to strain Group finances, caused by lack of advertising income. After exploring a number of avenues, the Group entered into a contract with Library Association Enterprises, who will

undertake responsibility for publishing and selling advertising space for the Journal, for a fixed fee. If this proves successful, it will release funds for other activities.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS GROUP

The highlight of 1998 was our success in finding a sponsor to enable the continuation of The Library Association Public Relations and Publicity Awards. These Awards will now be known as The Library Association Emerald Intelligence + Fulltext Public Relations and Publicity Awards in association with MCB University Press.

Again we were successful in securing sponsorship for the Group's annual conference and this year the conference theme itself was sponsorship and partnership. Although delegate numbers were less than we would have liked, the quality of presentations and discussion was excellent.

Keen that events reflect current training needs, the Group carried out a biennial training survey, sent to all Group members. A summary of our findings was published in the Group newsletter *Public Eye*.

Getting your Library into the Media, the Group's most recent publication, continues to realise steady sales.

The Group has suffered from lack of committee members. To help overcome this problem, a network of members has been developed to promote the Group and its events.

PRISON LIBRARIES GROUP

1998 started with Cathy Evans being elected as Group Chair, bringing with her a wealth of experience of prison libraries. The main event of the year was the annual study school in October. The conference title Quality is the Key proved apt as the quality of the speakers was indeed excellent. Keynote speaker Martin Narey, was then Head of Regime Services, but has since been appointed as Head of the Prison Service. Minnette Walters entertained us after dinner with tales of her visits to prisons.

An exciting launch by Ross Shimmon of the *Prison Libraries Training Pack* took place in May. The pack was financed by The Library Association Branch and Group Development Fund and copies were sent to members. These will be regularly updated via the Journal.

The Prison Libraries Group teamed up with Opening the Book staff to organise a training day in Birmingham in November. The course was a useful guide to promoting fiction and setting up a reading group in a prison.

The Group is now able to electronically promote events and highlight its work via the Web page www.la-hq.org.uk/Prislg/htm

The Prison Libraries Journal continues to flourish; an invaluable tool for communications between prison libraries who are often isolated professionally as well as physically.

Two new committee members joined the Group, Angela Loughlin and Anthony Harris the new Home Office observer. They replaced Peter Blunt and Anne Milton who have served many productive years on the committee.

RARE BOOKS GROUP

In 1998, Group efforts concentrated on raising standards of professionalism among members. Events during the year included the annual conference in Dublin on The Long Eighteenth Century and Irish Printing in particular; meetings of the joint Rare Books Group/Antiquarian Booksellers Association working party, a one-day conference with the Historic Libraries Forum on health and safety; and a one-day conference with the Society of Archivists and AMARC to promote joint training.

The *Rare Books Newsletter* was published three times and the Group maintains its Web site (http://venus.las.ox.ac.uk/rbg/Rare_books.htm). The *Directory of Rare Books and Special Collections* continues to

sell well. *A Guide to Rare Book Cataloguing* has almost sold out and a new print run is under discussion. The Group continues to monitor and promote the interests and concerns of the community of librarians responsible for the custodianship of our printed heritage.

RETIRED MEMBERS GUILD

The highlight of the Guild's year was a trip to Paris of 42 members, including a visit to the new Bibliotheque Nationale and several other libraries.

The annual lunch took place in the Globe Theatre with members enjoying a conducted tour. Numerous visits were also organized in the London area and other parts of the UK. In addition to over 700 members in this country, the Guild has an active membership in other parts of the world with a particularly thriving branch in Australia.

The Guild assisted in a number of Library Association activities and was also able to respond to requests for voluntary work where these did not conflict with the Association's guidelines. *Post Lib*, the Guild's journal is now produced in a more attractive format. To further improve communications, plans for a Web Page on The Library Association site got underway.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES GROUP

During 1998, the Group has been encouraged by developments in education, affecting teachers and learners and addressing the ways in which the school librarian is influential in enhancing school and individual achievement. The National School Libraries Group and regional groups in London and the Home Counties, Scotland and Wales have worked hard during the year to support school and school library service staff in meeting the challenges presented to them. Government initiatives such as Education Action Zones, the National Grid for Learning, the National Literacy Strategy, the National Year of Reading, and Study Support and Homework Clubs all impact on school libraries, school library services and public libraries; placing increasing demands on staff and resources. These recent developments have highlighted the need for more strategic planning and co-operation while reducing the opportunities for this to take place at anything beyond the parochial level.

The Group is concerned that further delegation of schools' budgets under 'fair funding' arrangements adds to the uncertain future of many school library services, and has implications for individual school libraries which may lose the support they have previously relied upon.

The Group promotes the value of Chartered librarians in school libraries and of school library services wherever possible. Committee members work closely with the Professional Adviser, Youth and School Libraries at The Library Association, preparing responses to Government and other national and international initiatives, and liaising with educational bodies at national and local level.

YOUTH LIBRARIES GROUP

1998 saw several Group 'firsts' and valuable partnerships. Royal Mail became a new sponsor for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals, linking these prestigious children's book awards with the launch of children's literature stamps. The British Library provided a new venue and superb setting for the Medals announcement ceremony. The Group's annual conference was held at Edinburgh University. Over 200 delegates enjoyed a warm Scottish welcome and excellent presentations on the theme of libraries Making An Impact.

As a steering group member, the Group contributed both to the formation of LaunchPad, and to its first projects. At the end of 1998 there was another new collaboration, this time for the Group's publications, which will now be distributed through the Norfolk Children's Book Centre and marketed by Watts Publishing.

All these activities represent input from members throughout the UK, with significant support from publishers and suppliers. The 11 Group branches also ran a stimulating programme of local training and promotional events on current aspects of children's literature and library services.

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE AND RESEARCH GROUP

International collaboration was the theme for the Group's conference programme, and the year started with a successful Anglo-German event in Oxford looking at the digital library. The programme drew on the experience of projects in the two countries and also considered the impact on commercial publishing and the role of librarians. The Group's main Easter conference, Learning from Others, was an Anglo-French occasion which used developments outside the library sector to stimulate new thinking about the issues facing academic libraries.

Staff development underpinned much of the activity of regional groups. Seminars kept members up-to-date with developments in digital and hybrid libraries; writing for publication; information skills; and managing change. Visits to the latest batch of new university library buildings resulting from the Follett report also featured prominently in local programmes.

Communication between Group members continues to be a priority, and the journal *Relay* focused on themed issues, including a well-received publication on lifelong learning. A national electronic mail list (lis-ucr) and other regional lists were established and design work was commissioned for the Group's Web site.

HONORARY AWARDS 1998

Library Association Honorary Fellowships

Chris Batt OBE BA FLA MIInfSc HonFLA
Director of Leisure Services, London Borough of Croydon

Dr. Barry Bloomfield MA FLA HonFLA
formerly Director of Collection Development, Humanities and Social Sciences at The British Library

Peter Craddock FLA HonFLA
formerly Executive Officer for Share-the-Vision

Mary Hoffman HonFLA
writer, journalist and consultant

Professor Norman Horrocks BA MLS PhD FLA Hon FLA
formerly Editorial Vice President of Scarecrow Press and lecturer in librarianship

Dr John Lionel Madden CBE MA FLA HonFLA
formerly Librarian of the National Library of Wales

(Full citations will appear in *The Library Association Yearbook 1999/2000*)

The following members received a mention in the honours lists:

In the New Year's Honours List

Geoffrey Hare (OBE)
Michael Petty (MBE)
Margaret Wilson (OBE)

In the Queen's Birthday List

Chris Batt (OBE)
Pauline Cook (MBE)
Gavin Drummond (MBE)
Benita Moore (MBE)

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Two complaints against members under the Association's Code of Professional Conduct were received during the year. One complaint was dismissed by the Disciplinary Committee, the other was still under investigation at the end of the year.

OBITUARY

The Library Association has been informed of the deaths of the following members during 1998:

Mrs E M B Adams ALA
Dr William Russell Aitken MA PhD FLA
Mr Roy Kenneth Bryan Aldridge FLA
Mrs S E Anstess ALA
Miss Joyce Asbury-Williams ALA
Miss Sheila Margaret Ashwin ALA
Mr Robert Frederick Atkins MA FLA
Mrs Doris Aubrey ALA
Mr Frederick Thomas Baker OBE MA FSA FMA
Mr Stanley Robert Ball BA (Hons) FLA
Mr Keith George Barker BA MLib FLA
Miss Sheila Ellen Mary Barkley BA ALA
Mr Peter Berwick MA ALA
Miss Helen Bickerstaff MA ALA
Miss Edna Maureen Elizabeth Bowen BA FLA
Mr Thomas Brimelow FLA FIInfSc
Mr Edward John Brisland
Mrs Winifred May Brooke FLA
Ms Jacqueline Gillian Brooks MA ALA
Dame Margaret Scott Bullivant DLJ FLA
Ms Eileen Elizabeth Burke
Mr Stanley Jack Butcher FRSA FLA
Mr Henry William Callaghan FLA
Mr Howard James Chandler BEM FLA
Miss Linda Gae Coleman BSc ALA
Miss Joy Vera Cook FLA
Dame Catherine Ann Cookson DBE HonFLA
Mrs Madeleine Cope BA FLA
Mr David Stanley Cousins BA DMA ALA
Mr John David Dews MA FLA
Mr Matthew Oxley Dobson BA FLA
Miss Shelagh Mary Sherwood Doherty BA ALA
Mr Dennis William Doughty MA(Cantab) FLA
Mr Joel Clarke Downing HonFLA FLA
Mr Alan Robert Eager FLAI FLA
Mr Alan Ernest Evans MA ALA
Mr John Farrell MA FLA
Mrs Greta Freund ALA
Miss Joan Margaret Gladstone BA FLA
Mrs Doreen Mavis Goodall ALA
Mr Peter James Gray BSc ALA
Mr Keith Raymond Greenhalgh ALA
Miss Isabel Gardner Hardie BA ALA
Miss Mary Grace Trahair Hartley ALA
Mr Paul Graeme Richard Harvey BA
Mrs Lynette Cynthia Biggart Hutchinson FLA
Mr Francis Ashley Tremenheere Johns MA FLA
Ms Barbara Kerslake ALA
Miss Gwendoline Knowles FLA
Ms Roberta Kennedy Lafferty BA (Hons) DipLib
ALA
Mrs Jean Diana Lamb ALA
Mr Frederick Henry Lamb ALA
Mrs Patricia Larby MA FLA
Mr Graham Larkworthy FLA
Mrs Lorena Ann Ledsham-Barrett BA DipLib ALA
Mr David Russell Leggatt FLA
Miss Pamela Lewis BA ALA
Mr Anthony J Loveday MA DipLib ALA
Mr Eric Lowe FLA
Mr Ian Lyle ALA
Mr John Makin MBE FLA
Miss Emily Marie Tree Markwick MA FLA
Mrs Linda Marron
Mrs Shirley Matthews ALA
Mr Edward May BA ALA
Mrs Mary Valentine Mitchell ALA
Mrs Benita Lillian Moore MBE ALA
Mr Richard Stuart Muirhead BA (Hons)
Miss Eileen Mary Munro ALA
Mr William John Murison OBE MA FLAI FLA
Mr Laurence Charles Neal ALA
Mr Christopher Donald Needham FLA
Mrs Francis Mary Norris ALA
Mrs Marie Frederica Olivia Ord ALA
Mr James McConnel Orr MA FLA
Mr Peter Pagan BA FLA
Mr Geoffrey Roger Prutton BA MSc (Econ)
Mr Philip John Quevatre GBSM DipLib ALA
Mr Alan John Harvey Randle ALA
Mr Henry Charles Reeve ALA
Mrs Diane Margaret Richardson ALA
Mr Anthony James Rowberry FLA
Mrs Lilian Sargeant MBE FLA
Mrs Phyllis Mary Du Sautoy FLA
Mr Graham Kenneth Scott FLA
Miss Barbara Yvonne Caley Smith ALA
Mr David Crawford Soutter FLA
Mrs Kathleen Margaret Stone ALA
Mrs Gaynor Stratten BA (Hons) ALA
Ms Marion Stubbs BA ALA
Mr Brian Sugden ALA
Mr Stanley Hill Tennent FLA
Miss Isabella Bennett Thomson ALA
Mrs Beryl Margaret Threlfall BA (Hons) CertEd
Miss Edith Mary Todd ALA
Mr Edward Harry Trevitt JP FLA
Mr Christian F Verbeke
Mr Herbert Ward FLA
Miss Penelope Ann Ward BA ALA
Ms Ethel Leslie Watson ALA
Miss E. Gladys May Webber ALA
Mrs Hazel Nina Williamson BSc MIInfSc ALA
Mr Michael Christopher George Wise FLA

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 1998

Bankers: Bank of Scotland, CBS, Telford House, 3 Mid New Cultins, Edinburgh EH11 4DH

Solicitors: Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BB

Auditors: Davies Watson, Haybarn House, 118 South Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2EZ

Investment Advisers: Global Asset Management Ltd., 12 St James's Place, London SW1A 1NX

Investment powers, which are set out in full in the bye-laws, are wide-ranging, subject to conditions about delegating to investment managers or obtaining independent professional advice.

Principal Officers 1998

Chief Executive: Ross Shimmon FLA

Director, Communications: Sherry Jespersen BA MBA FLA

Director, Management Services: Martin Wright FCA

Director, Professional Services: Susan Brown ALA

Managing Director, Library Association Enterprises: Janet Liebster BA

Director, Scottish Library Association: Robert Craig BA MA ALA

Executive Officer, Welsh Library Association: Glyn Collins BA ALA (By year end) Huw Evans BSc DipLib ALA

Executive Officer, Northern Ireland Branch: Elga Logue BLS ALA

Method of Election of Council

In accordance with the bye-laws of the Association the Vice President was appointed by Council. The President, Honorary Treasurer and National Councillors were elected by postal ballot of all personal members. Councillors representing National, University, College and Medical Libraries and those representing Special Libraries were elected by personal members by postal ballot. Branch Councillors were elected by postal ballot of personal members of the appropriate branch. Group Councillors were elected by postal ballot of personal members of the appropriate group. Affiliated Members Councillors were elected by postal ballot by the Affiliated members. Representatives of the Career Development Group were elected by members of the Career Development Group, a group of The Library Association.

Members of Council are Trustees of the Charity.

Registered Charity No 313014

COUNCIL:

Listed with full-time employers where applicable

President:

Robert Usherwood BA PhD ALA FIInfSc Hon FLA (University of Sheffield)

Present-Elect:

Verna Taylor MSC BA MILAM ALA (Northamptonshire CC)

Immediate Past Presidents:

Joe Hendry MA FLA (Cumbria CC)

Sandra Parker BA DMS FLA (University of Northumbria at Newcastle)

Vice-President

Pam Robinson ALA (South Tyneside College)

Honorary Treasurer:

Jacqueline Cropley MA(Cantab) DipLib MIMgt ALA

Chair of Council:

Mary Auckland BSc MSc ALA (School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London)

National Councillors:

Until December 1998

Elizabeth Chapman BA MA DipLib FLA (Taylor Institution, University of Oxford)
Diane Dewar BA ALA (Institute of Personnel & Development)
Diana Dixon BA Mphil ALA
Frances Hendrix JP BA MBA MIIInfSc MInstD ALA (LASER)
Joe Hendry MA FLA (Cumbria CC)
Deborah Shorley BA ALA (University of Ulster)
Robert Usherwood BA PhD FIIInfSc MBIM ALA HonFLA (University of Sheffield)
Lesley Willetts BA DipLib ALA (City of Sunderland MDC)

Until December 1999

Mary Auckland BSc MSc ALA (University of London)
Judith Elkin BA MIMgt MIIInfSc FLA (University of Central England at Birmingham)
Alison Minns BA DipLib FLA (University of Brighton)
Verna Taylor MSc BA MILAM ALA (Northamptonshire CC)

Until December 2000

Suzanne Burge BA ALA (Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration)
Shelagh Levett BA CertEd ALA (Bournemouth BC)
Martin Stone BA ALA (Calderdale MDC)
Jonathan Willson BA MA (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Councillors for National, Univeristy College and Medical Libraries:

Until December 1998

Tony McSean FLA (British Medical Association)
Stephen Richard BA DipLib ALA (University of Glasgow)

Elected by Groups of the Association:

Until December 1999

Branch & Mobile Libraries: Barry Cropper MA DipLib MIMgt ALA (Corporation of London)
Cataloguing & Indexing: Susi Woodhouse MA DipLib ALA (EARL)
Community Services: Andrew Green BA MLS DMS DipLib ALA (Liverpool City Council)
Education Librarians: Roy Kirk BA ALA (University of Leicester)
Government Libraries: Ian Snowley BA ALA (Department of Health)
Health Libraries: Judith Palmer BSc DipLib PhD MIIInfSc FLA (University of Oxford)
International: Mark Perkins BA MLib ALA (Resigned June 1998)
Library History: Jonathan Bengtson BA MPhil MA (Queen's College, University of Oxford)
Public Libraries: Michael Curtis MA ALA
University College & Research: Andrew McDonald BSc ALA (University of Sunderland)
Youth Libraries: Anne Overall BA ALA (Birmingham MDC)

Until December 2000

Colleges of Further & Higher Education: Glynis Platt BA DipLib ALA (John Rylands Library, University of Manchester)
Industrial and Commercial Libraries: Jim Basker BSc MA MIMgt ALA
Information Services: Amanda Duffy BA ALA (Westminster LB)
Information Technology: Vacant
Local Studies: Vacant
Multimedia: David Sharp BA ALA (British Film Institute)
Personnel Training and Education: Ian Johnson BA MIMgt MIIInfSc FLA (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen)
Prison Libraries: Cathy Evans ALA (Worcester County Council)
Publicity and Public Relations: Janet Coomber MLib ALA (Corporation of London)
Rare Books: Vacant
School Libraries: Vacant

Elected by Branches of the Association:

Until December 1998

Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire: Ruth Burgess BLib ALA (Bracknell Forest BC)

Eastern: Guenever Pachent BA DLIS ALA (Suffolk CC)

East Midlands: Mandy Hicken MLS ALA

London & Home Counties: Michael Saich FLA

Northern: Michael Young BA ALA

Northern Ireland: Rosemary Adams BA DipLib ALA (Western Education and Library Board)

North Western: Kathleen Ryan BA FLA (Bolton MBC)

Scottish Library Association: Alan Marchbank MA PhD (National Library of Scotland)

South Western: Carl Earl BSc ALA

Welsh Library Association: Elspeth Mitcheson BA DipLib ALA (Isle of Anglesey CC)

West Midlands: Pat Beech ALA (Shropshire CC)

Yorkshire & Humberside: Graham Cornish BA FIInfSc FLA (British Library)

Affiliated Members:

Until December 1998

Muriel Mitchell (Hertfordshire CC)

Until December 2000

Doreen Walker (Coventry Metropolitan District Council)

Elected by the Career Development Group

Andrew Fripp BA ALA (Gloucestershire CC)

Jean Bennett BA (Engineering Employers' Federation)

Disciplinary Committee

Melvyn Barnes

Elizabeth Chapman

Graham Cornish

Carl Earl

Joe Hendry

Alison Minns

Stephen Richard

Kath Ryan

Michael Saich

Martin Stone

Robert Usherwood

Michael Young

The Chair of Policy & Resources Committee

The Honorary Treasurer

Registration Appeals Panel

Suzanne Burge

Diana Dixon

Amanda Duffy

Andrew Fripp

Joe Hendry

Shelagh Levett

Alison Minns

Guenever Pachent

Stephen Richard

Deborah Shorley

Susi Woodhouse

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL 1998**Policy & Resources Committee**

Barry Cropper (Chair)

Mary Auckland (Chair of Council)

Suzanne Burge (Chair, Special Libraries Committee)

Jacqueline Cropley (Vice Chair and Honorary Treasurer)

Frances Hendrix (Chair, Enterprise Board)

Joe Hendry (Immediate Past President)

Andrew McDonald (Chair, Academic and Research Libraries Committee)

Elspeth Mitcheson (Chair, Youth Libraries Committee)

Guenever Pachent (Chair, Public Libraries Committee)

Martin Stone (Chair, Education and Personal Membership Services Committee)

Jonathan Willson (Member elected by Council)

Susi Woodhouse (Chair, Institutional Services Committee)

Subordinate bodies:

Regionalism Working Party

Education & Personal Membership Services Committee

Martin Stone (Chair)
Melvyn Barnes
Elizabeth Chapman
Janet Coomber
Andrew Fripp
Mandy Hicken
Ian Johnson
Muriel Mitchell
Stephen Richard
Kathleen Ryan
Subordinate bodies:
Accreditation Board
Equal Opportunities Sub-Committee
Registration Board

Academic & Research Libraries Committee

Andrew McDonald (Chair)
Jonathan Bengtson
Judith Elkin
Roy Kirk
Alan Marchbank
Alison Minns
Glynis Platt
Pam Robinson
Subordinate bodies: None

Special Libraries Committee

Suzanne Burge (Chair)
Jim Basker
Diane Dewar
Judith Palmer
David Sharp
Ian Snowley
Subordinate bodies: None

Enterprise Board

Frances Hendrix (Chair)
Diana Dixon
Tony McSean
Subordinate bodies:
Library Association Publishing Board
Record Editorial Board
UmbrelLA Planning Sub-Committee
International Congress on Medical Librarianship,
2000 Planning Sub-Committee
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference 2002 Planning Sub-Committee

Institutional Services Committee

Susi Woodhouse (Chair)
Jean Bennett
Graham Cornish
Amanda Duffy
Sandra Parker
Mark Perkins (Resigned June 1998)
Michael Saich
Deborah Shorley
Jonathan Willson
Subordinate bodies:
Adult Learning and Libraries Sub-Committee
International Sub-Committee
Dewey Decimal Classification Committee
Preservation, Conservation Security and
Heritage Sub-Committee

Public Libraries Committee

Guenever Pachent (Chair)
Rosemary Adams
Pat Beech
Barry Cropper
Michael Curtis
Carl Earl
Cathy Evans
Andrew Green
Joe Hendry
Shelagh Levett
Doreen Walker
Subordinate bodies: None

Youth Libraries Committee

Elspeth Mitcheson (Chair)
Ruth Burgess
Anne Everall
Verna Taylor
Lesley Willetts
Michael Young
Subordinate bodies: None

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The Library Association's summary accounts for 1998 again show a very satisfactory financial position. The result for the year in the Income and Expenditure Account is a surplus of £222,310, after transfers to specific reserves (largely an increase in the reserve to maintain the value of the investment of the proceeds of the sale of Library Association Publishing Ltd serials and journal publishing activity). This is the largest yearly surplus ever made by the Association and is particularly satisfactory as the figures include a further part of the cost of refurbishment of offices at 7 Ridgmount Street and the decoration of the outside of the building. The surplus enables us to move forward with a number of new initiatives of benefit to the membership, including the Workplace Libraries '99 campaign and new guidelines for primary schools.

LA Enterprises had another record year, contributing over £500,000 to net income.

The Balance Sheet shows a strong financial position. The current value of 7 Ridgmount Street is much more than the amount included in Fixed Assets. After a review of investment policy it was agreed to change the investments and at the end of the year this process was partially completed. The value of investments increased by over £260,000 during the year.

The level of the Association's reserves was also considered during the year. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to plan to reduce them somewhat by setting subscriptions at a lower level than otherwise necessary to produce a balanced budget.

I am pleased that it was possible to increase subscriptions by only a small amount in 1999. I expect The Library Association's financial position to remain healthy and hope to be able to continue to keep future subscription increases to a minimum.

Jacqueline Cropley
Honorary Treasurer